



# HISTORICALLY SPEAKING

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE MILTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

2006-2007

## Stannard House May See New Life by Kate Miller & Bill Kaigle

Despite its peeling paint, boarded-up windows and sagging walls, three Milton Elementary School students are looking at the old Stannard House on Route 7 with energetic and optimistic eyes. Sixth-graders August Cyr, 11, Alison Joseph, 11, and Mae Kemsley, 12, have launched a "Raise the Roof" campaign to fix up the historic landmark.

August said she got the idea after hearing her father talk about the Stannard House. "I'm a big history and Civil War buff, and I realized I had to save [the house], so I dragged these guys into it", she said with a smile, gesturing toward Mae and Alison.

When asked why the house is important, the girls launch into a complete verbal history of Civil War General George J. Stannard, born in Georgia, Vermont and the first Vermonter to enlist in the war. Credited with stopping Pickett's charge at Gettysburg, Stannard lost an arm in battle; it was this injury that lead to the unique barn that once stood behind the house in Milton. (See an in-depth profile of General Stannard on page 2.)

"The barn was probably more valuable because it was built for a one-armed man", Mae explained, adding that the barn was taken down [in 1989].

The girls are aiming to fix up the exterior of the house by giving it a good coat of paint, planting flowers, and perhaps installing a plaque to commemorate its historic value. They are also holding a con-

test to choose a few painters to create murals on the wide boards covering the windows.

August, Alison and Mae made a presentation to their teachers and to the Milton Historical Society. They contacted historian

Howard Coffin, who wrote a letter praising them and offering his support. Readers who were in attendance at the Soldiers' Monument Rededication in September 2004 may remember him stating strongly in his address that the house "should be saved." On Town Meeting Day, the girls set up a booth to raise funds and promote awareness.

When the girls contacted the Greater Burlington Industrial Corporation (GBIC), owners since 1989 of the land on which the Stannard House sits, they had a pleasant surprise. "They were interested in what we're doing and they said they'd donate what we'd need to paint the house", August said. "I was on the phone and I almost dropped it when I heard that".

"Yes, we will be providing the supplies and our staff will join the kids [to complete the house painting job]," said recently departed GBIC Vice President Sam Matthews. "We're just so deeply touched that August and her classmates are interested in this project."

The girls' teacher, Katie Reen, said she was impressed with their ambitiousness. "Every bit of this has been their own effort, their own fire, and their own drive," she said. Reen has been in discussions with Matthews' replacement at GBIC, Joe Thibault, who is enthusiastic to keep things rolling after all the effort the girls have put forth. He has been in contact with Bob Zatzke, Lead Paint Hazard Abatement Program

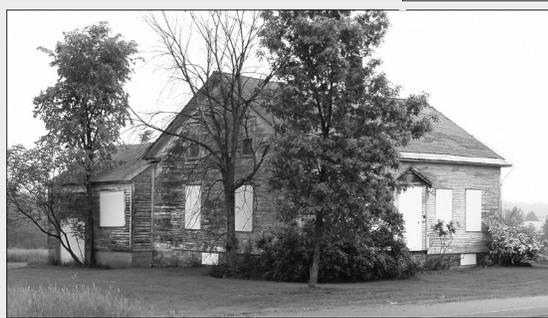
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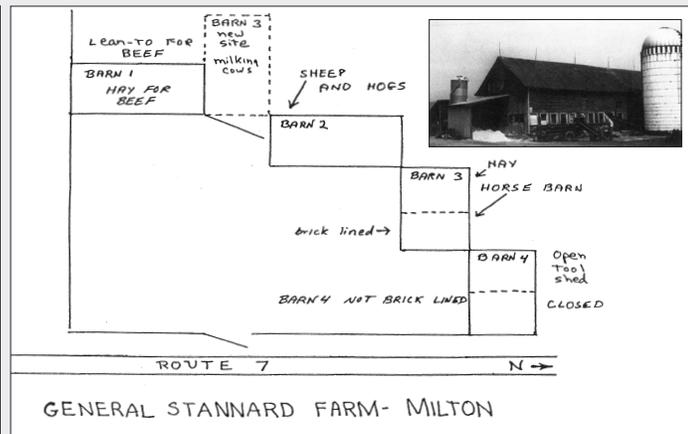
The Stannard House in the late 1800s. Dr. Calvin Deming (1774-1849), the first Secretary of the Vermont Medical Society, lived and practiced medicine there from 1820 until his death. He also served as West Milton Postmaster in 1837.



August, Mae and Alison (left to right) explained their plans to the Historical Society at our March meeting.



The historical landmark as it sits today. The recently boarded windows may see colorful murals in the near future!



The floor plan of Stannard's brick-lined barn shows how it was built for a person with only a left arm. It was later changed to accommodate dairy farming.

# MILTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

ESTABLISHED 1978

## Officers

Jane FitzGerald *Museum Director*  
Bill Kaigle *President*  
Rick Stowell *Vice President*  
Beverly Quebec *Secretary*  
Linda Ballard *Treasurer*  
Mary Skapski *Historian*

## Directors

Doris Mears *3 years*  
Gordon Thom *2 years*  
Bob Sibley *1 year*

## Membership

Membership is open to the public. Annual dues are:

Individual \$5.00  
Family \$7.50  
Honorary (age 80 & over) Free

Please send payment to:

Milton Historical Society  
P.O. Box 2  
Milton, VT 05468

## HISTORICALLY SPEAKING

VOLUME 6, NUMBER 1 2006-2007

Bill Kaigle *Editor/Design*

# As History Would Have It... by Jane FitzGerald

In January 2001, the Milton Historical Society moved its collections from storage into the Town's renovated historic building, the former Trinity Episcopal Church. It became the home of the Milton Historical Museum. The Society continues to promote and increase the community's interest and involvement in collecting, displaying and preserving our heritage.

During February and March 2005, students from Nina Hulst's World History class interviewed several Society members. As part of their assignment, these students were expected to become historians and recorders of the history in their community, focusing on both positive and negative changes affecting people's lives. The students hosted a Presentation Party where they produced an audio-visual program and shared excerpts from their essay.

In March, the Milton residents voted to have the Civil War Soldiers Monument remain at its new location at the Milton Museum. We appreciate your support and confidence in deciding this site for the town's most noted and historical landmark. We will keep this important chapter of our history alive for future generations. This past summer, a visitor from Oregon whose great-great grandfather's name was inscribed on the monument, was searching for more information. Much to our surprise, we found his picture and personal experiences documented in the history of the 13th Vermont Regiment!

In May 2005, over 150 parents and friends attended the 23rd Annual Junior Historians Awards Night at the Elementary School. The theme was "Building a Community". Stan Henry described how early settlers cleared forests, built shelters, and created early villages. Forty-four students received history book awards and all participants received a certificate.

The Vermont History Expo was held in June at the Tunbridge Fairgrounds. Our exhibit consisted of a timeline documenting 200 years of health care in Milton, as well as a replica of the homemade incubator designed by Dr. Luman C. Holcombe, a Milton doctor

from 1894-1948, who in 1904 held a world-famous record for an incubator baby case (100 days premature, weighing 1 lb. 8 oz.).

A multi-generational book discussion was held on July 27 at the Museum, sponsored by the Vermont Humanities Council, VT Reads 2005 and the Milton Public Library. The Community Read book "Seedfolks" was a series of personal short stories about community gardens bringing hope to a deserted community.

On September 24, 2005 we attended the 25th Anniversary Celebration of the Preservation Trust of Vermont, held at the Shelburne Farms Breeder's Barn. People gathered to celebrate past preservation projects to protect Vermont's heritage. Many exhibits explained and documented the projects, including ours featuring the renovation that would become the Milton Historical Museum.

At the Annual Meeting of the League of Local Historical Societies and the Vermont Museum & Gallery Alliance in Montpelier, we received an Award of Merit in the category of Educational Outreach for the day-long celebration of the Soldiers' Monument Rededication on September 6, 2004.

At the well-attended Early Christmas Open House at the Museum in December, visitors enjoyed traditional tunes played by three members of the Vermont Fiddle Orchestra. Children were entertained with challenging antique toys and games, many of which were made by our Toy Man, Stan Henry. The Christmas tree, decorated with handmade ornaments displaying toys of the past, an angel Christmas tree decorated by the Girl Scouts, our popular traditional food table, and a children's craft table were added attractions. It was a festive nostalgic afternoon.

Programs at our monthly meetings included *Vermont's Largest & Oldest Trees*, *Early Medicine & Herbal Cures*, *Dowsing*, *Rebels in Vermont - The St. Albans Raid*, and *Designation of Vermont Independence Day*.

**See the enclosed events calendar for this season's great programs!**



## Remember!

Our membership year begins in April. (Yes, this newsletter is late, as usual) Your support is needed and appreciated. Please renew or begin your membership today!

Send enclosed form and payment to:  
Milton Historical Society  
P.O. Box 2 • Milton, VT 05468



**Saturdays June-October 9:30-1:30**

Space Available - Call 893-7734

# WANTED: MORE ACTIVE MEMBERS!

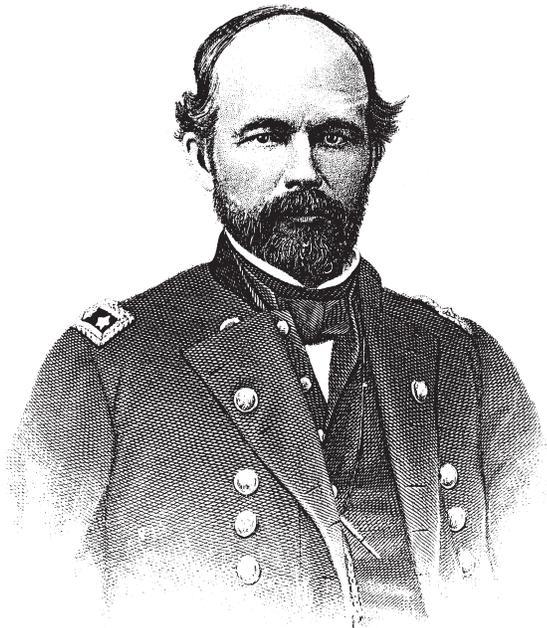
There are many ways that you can get involved to benefit your Historical Society and Museum, and it's FUN! See enclosed membership form for committee list, call for details.

# General George J. Stannard by Jane FitzGerald

George Jerrison Stannard, Vermont's most famous Civil War veteran, was born in Georgia, Vermont on October 20, 1820. He attended public school in St. Albans, and later became a foundry clerk in St. Albans until the outbreak of the Civil War.

Stannard's military interest was evident at an early age. A brief summary of some of his accomplishments follows: He was named Colonel when the Fourth Vermont was formed. From 1858 to 1861 he participated only in state military circles and was the first Vermonter to volunteer for service in the Civil War. On March 11, 1863, he was commissioned Brigadier General of the United States Volunteers by President Lincoln and was given command of the Second Vermont Brigade comprised of the 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th and 16th regiments, all 9 months.

Although he had no formal military training, Stannard showed signs of strong leadership ability. He played a crucial role in



helping to stop Pickett's charge at the Battle of Gettysburg. Stannard's Sixteenth Vermont pushed the enemy back in a second counter action. Stannard was painfully wounded in the leg during the charge, but remained on the field

until he was relieved of his command and the injured had received help.

On September 29, 1864, Stannard's action at Fort Harrison showed great bravery and his strong character inspired his men to hold the fort against great odds. Near the end of this battle Stannard's right arm was amputated as a result of a serious gunshot. Stannard received the Brevet of Major General of Volunteers from President Lincoln for his gallantry and heroism. At

that time Stannard's military career ended because of his war-related injuries. In 1866-67, Stannard went to work for the newly created Freedmen's Bureau in charge of General Oliver O. Howard, a fellow Vermont General. The Freedmen's Bureau was established to assist negroes with employment and receiving and protecting their civil rights. He also served as Collector of Customs for the Vermont District from 1865 to 1872.

In 1868, he moved to Petty Brook (near the south boundary of Milton), where his brick manufacturing and horse raising businesses failed. It should be known that while Stannard has left a lasting impression, he actually spent a very short time in Milton.

In 1873, General Stannard died of pneumonia on June 6, 1873, in St. Albans, Vermont. He was buried in the Soldiers Monument by the

## Byways Sign Will Improve Visibility by Bill Kaigle

With a grant from the National Scenic Byways Program, Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission's (CCRPC) goal of creating interpretive signs throughout

the Lake Champlain Byway Chittenden County Corridor is in full swing.

Milton is one of eight municipalities in the Byways Chittenden County Corridor. The proposed project's elements – improved signage and visitor information displays and kiosks, additional interpretive information, improvements for multi-modal travel – will improve the traveler experience and ensure the sustainability of our region's diverse archeological, cultural, historical, natural, recreational and scenic resources. Each municipality works with interested local residents, businesses and community groups and with the CCRPC

to implement those elements which are most appropriate for their community and for the Byway as a whole.

The project will not only improve and sustain the Byway but will also develop the infrastructure to host the increased number of visitors anticipated as part of the 2009 400th Anniversary of Samuel de Champlain's Discovery of Lake Champlain and beyond.

We are grateful to be included as one of the four 24"x36" interpretive signs being produced for the Town. Our committee has worked hard to present an engaging and functional sign to promote Milton Village and the Museum. It will be placed in Riverside Park on Route 7, containing information on Historic Main Street, Milton Historical Museum, and the Soldiers Monument. It will also help address concerns of awareness and visibility, and we are looking forward to seeing it in place late this fall!

**Early Milton Village**

**The Birth of Main Street**  
In 1799 John South, Samuel Milton's first lawyer, secured the original rights for a land parcel in Milton. He eventually passed most of the land in the village of Milton Falls. A public-spirited man, Judge South donated land for the "First Water Street" Main Street, an area for the Village Cemetery and a building with surrounding land for the first Town church (Congregationalist).

**Where Joseph Went, the Town Followed**  
In 1818, Joseph Clark, Milton's first prominent business arrived in West Milton, about 1/2 mile downstream from here on the Lamoille River. He became successful with lumbering, trading, mills, factories and real-estate for over fifty years. In 1817, Clark moved to Milton. Falls where he built a stone brick residence, office building and farmhouse. In 1850 he used his influence to cause a narrow way in Milton on the newly formed Vermont, Canada, Railway. This linked Milton to New England cities, Canada and the Great Lakes and brought increasing prosperity. As you view Main Street, with its many historic buildings, imagine an earlier community bustling with homogeneity, trading, working and socializing.

**The Milton Historical Museum**  
The museum is built from about 200 years of Milton's past, from early lumbering and trading to the present. Visit the Milton Historical Museum, established in 2009 in the former Trinity Episcopal Church on School Street (across a Soldiers Monument). Inaugurate the 2009 Milton men who served during the Civil War, is featured on site.

Approved artwork for the History of Milton Village/Museum sign.

Look for a cemetery stone cleaning project in the coming year!.....Jane FitzGerald received the Community Service Award by the Milton & Colchester Grange on August 25, 2005 for her truly outstanding contributions to many organizations, including this one..... This past year, Century Award signs were presented to the McCain family on River Street, the Brodhead family on Sanderson Road and the Paulsen family

on East Road. If you are in need of one, please call.....If you need assistance on a genealogy project, contact Bob Sibley at 527-0906 or bob\_s90@hotmail.com.....If you have a historical program you'd like to see happen, call Bill Kaigle at 893-7387.....If you have photographs or other items you would like to contribute to the Milton Historical Society, please contact Jane FitzGerald at 893-2340.....Back issues of *Historically Speaking* are available, and let



# bits-O-news

us know if a friend or relative would like to be added to our mailing list.....Your tax-deductible donations to benefit the Milton Historical Museum are crucial to its ongoing success in serving our community. They may be sent to: Milton Historical Society, P.O. Box 2, Milton, VT 05468. *Thank you!*.....A portion of newsletter printing cost underwritten by Paw Print & Mail of So. Burlington, and mailing services generously donated by Dave Beckett of Williston..... Copies of our 2006 Calendar "History of Healthcare in Milton" are still available at the Museum - a great collector's item!

## Stannard House *continued from page 1*

Coordinator, regarding applying for a lead paint clean-up grant for about \$5000.

The girls' quest to save General Stannard's home has garnered attention outside of Milton as well – Vermont Public Radio recently interviewed them in a profile to be aired soon! They have also been invited to the GBIC Annual Meeting on June 20th, where they will be honored for their initiative and efforts.

Looking forward, August, Alison and Mae would love to REALLY "raise the roof" and make the house usable if for nothing else, simply educating people about General Stannard. But right now, they're focused on clearing the lead paint hurdle before pursuing anything else. *Stay tuned!*

*To contribute to the "Raise the Roof" Campaign, make check payable to August Cyr, Alison Joseph, or Mae Kemsley and mail to:  
Amy Joseph, 13 Lena Court, Milton, VT 05468*

*If you are interested in learning about Milton's past and its many events and personalities of the past 150 years, plan to visit the Milton Historical Museum at 13 School Street.*

## MUSEUM HOURS

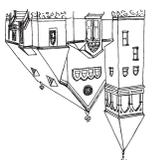
April through October | 1st & 3rd weekend, 1:00 – 4:00 pm  
Year-Round | By Appointment ~ call 893-2340

*We would also like to invite you to join the Society. Annual Membership begins in April each year, and you may join at any time. Please return the membership form attached to the enclosed Events Calendar, noting your specific interests.*

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Burlington, VT

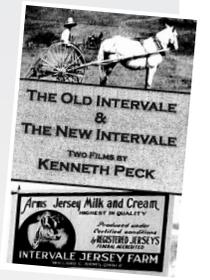
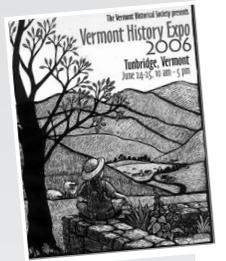
Return Service Requested

MILTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
P.O. BOX 2  
MILTON, VERMONT 05468



The monthly meeting of the Milton Historical Society is held on the first Wednesday of each month at the Museum at 7:30 p.m. unless otherwise noted. We have an entertaining program, a business meeting, and refreshments. All are welcome to attend. Special and related events are also listed. Schedule subject to change.

- Wed. May 3, 2006 **24th Annual Junior Historians Awards Night** Topic: "Vermont's Landscape & Natural Resources". Educator and Fairbanks Museum Historian Peggy Pearl will present a live impersonation on the life of an early logger. Milton Elementary School, Herrick Avenue, 7:30 pm.
- Mon. May 29, 2006 **Memorial Day Flag-Raising** 1:00 pm. Flag dedication honoring the late Lyndon Sheldon and American Legion Auxiliary No. 57, promoters of patriotism and community service. Museum open 12-4pm.
- Wed. June 7, 2006 **"Vermont Then & Now: A Photograph Tour"** Want to take a look back into Vermont's past? UVM Professor of Geology and Natural Resources Paul Bierman presents the Landscape Change Program (uvm.edu/perkins/landscape), a free collection of over 13,000 images online of which 55 are from Milton! See a Vermont that was bare of trees, when logs were driven down our rivers, and before the coming of Wal Mart. The image archive is housed at UVM and its mission is to preserve views of Vermont as it was and as it is. This whirlwind photograph tour of the state reviews over a hundred years of landscape change in just an hour. Search for images of your town and how you can add images and stories to this community archive.
- June 24&25, 2006 **Vermont History Expo 2006** Tunbridge World's Fairground. Great Exhibits, Presentations, Music & Entertainment. As part of this year's Expo theme "Vermont Women in History", the Milton Historical Society will feature Ruth Powell, former pastor of Milton's United Church. *A Vermont Chamber of Commerce Top Ten Summer Event.*
- Wed. July 5, 2006 Business Meeting/Committee Reports and Discussion of By-Laws
- Wed. August 2, 2006 **"Sprightly Steps: Vermont's Contra and Square Dancing Tradition"** by Adam Boyce. Early settlers may have frowned upon the merriment of dancing as "the work of the Devil," but the tradition found its way to the Green Mountains nevertheless. From fancy balls or cotillions to kitchen junkets or tunks, people of all ages and backgrounds fell under the spell of the fiddle. Changes of musical styles and culture have made old-time dancing nearly extinct, but some practitioners keep the old styles alive. *A Vermont Humanities Council presentation.* \*\*Bylaws vote at Business Meeting\*\*
- Sun. August 6, 2006 **Sunday Picnic Trip to Ethan Allen Homestead** Meet at the Museum at 11:00 am. Bring a food item to share.
- Wed. September 6, 2006 **"The Old Intervale & The New Intervale"** Films by Kenneth Peck.
- Wed. October 4, 2006 **Life Onboard: Studying Lake Champlain's Sunken Canal Boats"** by Underwater Archaeologist Adam Kane of the Lake Champlain Maritime Museum. *A Vermont Humanities Council presentation*
- Wed. November 1, 2006 **"Veterans"** Presentation by Milton High School students & teacher Liz Arnold.
- Wed. December 6, 2006 Business Meeting & Preparation for Holiday Cheer Festivities.
- Sun. December 10, 2006 **Holiday Cheer Celebration** Music by members of the Vermont Fiddle Orchestra! 1 - 4 pm
- Wed. January 3, 2007 **"Milton's Epidemics & Natural Disasters"**
- Wed. February 1, 2007 **"History Online – Using Technology to Discover our Past"** by Gary Furlong
- Wed. March 2, 2007 **"The Evolution of an Underground Railroad Historic Site"** by Jane Williamson. The story of Ferrisburg's Rokeby Museum and its famous Robinson family.
- Late March **Maple Sugar-Off** 1:30 - 4 pm at the Milton Grange Hall. Sugar-on-Snow, Maple donuts and baked goods, music & fun! Exact date to be announced.
- Wed. April 5, 2007 **"The History and Future of Milton Cemeteries"** Annual Meeting / Membership Month. Program details to be announced.



For further information please call 893-2340 or 893-7387, or email: [miltonhistorical@yahoo.com](mailto:miltonhistorical@yahoo.com)

## MEMBERSHIP FORM

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Renewal

New Member

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Would you be interested in serving on any of these committees?

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Museum/Building & Grounds    | <input type="checkbox"/> Membership & Outreach   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historical Programs          | <input type="checkbox"/> Budget & Finance  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cemeteries                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Museum/Collections  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic Site                | <input type="checkbox"/> I'm unable to participate, but I support the Society's efforts and programs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other area of interest _____ |  |

The Milton Historical Society meets the first Wednesday of each month at the Milton Historical Museum, at 7:30 p.m. Categories of membership are: Individual - \$5.00, Family - \$7.50, Honorary (age 80 and over) - Free

Membership dues and form may be mailed to: Milton Historical Society, P.O. Box 2, Milton, VT 05468



# TRIVIA TIME

*They came by horse and carriage. They came by train.  
They even came by automobile! What is the largest-ever  
attended event in Milton history?*

*Come to the Museum for the answer!*

*Educator and Fairbanks  
Museum Historian  
Peggy Pearl had the  
crowd's full attention  
with her live  
impersonation on the  
life of an early logger at  
Milton Elementary  
School on May 3, 2006.*

